

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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December 1985

52 East 41 Street
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Up-and-Coming

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Christmas Party, Rumford Hall, Door Prizes, Grab Bag (bring gift under \$5 for it), \$10 per person, Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar, Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

OPC Holiday Closing Dates—The OPC will be closed on the same schedule as the Chemists Club: Dec. 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 and Jan. 1.

Wednesday, Jan. 8, Noon—First Thursday Luncheon even though it's Wednesday, Edward R. Murrow Room, with Irene Corbally Kuhn, Reserve with Hester Hensell, 867-9538, or Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Friday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Twilight Jazz honoring Benny Waters, Rumford Hall, \$5 Admission, Cash Bar, First Come Seating.

Monday, Jan. 27—Deadline for submission of entries in Annual OPC Awards Competition. For entry blanks, phone Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Stop Putting Blinders On World, OPC Tells South Africa's Botha

OPC's cable to South Africa President P.W. Botha has several lines that stand out amid the mass of protests against his government's latest press bans.

We told Botha the onerous new restrictions are a "move to put blinders on the world." We suggested they "can be counterproductive."

With OPC President Anita Diamant and Freedom of Press Committee Chairman Norman A. Schorr signing, we told Botha his media restrictions "can lead to unfounded speculation, distortion and misunderstanding about what happens in your country."

"Banning press coverage can only lead to greater unrest and greater violence," we said.

"We urge you rescind," etc., we said. In short, we suggested he cut it out.

Editors Tell OPC Forum 'Key' To Success of New Magazines



(L-R) Amsterdam, Harris, Carbine, Stolley

There really is a key to successfully cranking up a new magazine, according to the OPC's Blue Chip Magazine Editors Panel.

It was SRO in the Bogart Room Oct. 30 for the OPC's Blue Chip Magazine Editors Panel featuring:

- **Patricia T. Carbine**, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, *Ms.*
- **T. George Harris**, Editor, *American Health*
- **Richard B. Stolley**, Editor, *Picture Week*
- **Jane Amsterdam**, Editor, *Manhattan Inc.*

"Something I've caught here tonight," Harris said, "is that everybody (the panel speakers) said something about an information pile that wasn't being tapped."

"If I were selling lumber and there was a demand for lumber and I knew where I could get a lot of good lumber, I'd be in business."

That may be over simplifying the key to founding successful magazines, but the concept has a certain fascination—especially in the light of what the others said.

Stolley recounted the saga of *Picture Week's* development since he got the idea two years ago that all those droves of good pictures from all sources, wire services in particular, ought to have a home; that so many in which people would be interested never appear.

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1st Thursday: Kupferberg Bemoans State of Critics

Before we report Parade Senior Editor Herbert Kupferberg's address to the full house OPC First Thursday Luncheon Nov. 7 on "The Art of Covering the Arts," a note:

Irene Corbally Kuhn, who's covered the world as columnist, broadcast commentator, war correspondent, free lance and magazine writer, feature writer, and an author, too, will be First Thursday speaker in January.

Ms. Kuhn is something special in another way. She is a founding member of the OPC—on hand at the beginning back in 1939. She'll speak on her years as a correspondent in Shanghai, about which she has an article in the January issue of *Gourmet Magazine*—"Shanghai's Vintage Years," between the wars, when it was "The Paris of the Orient."

Hester Hensell, who's done a fantastic job organizing this luncheon series, tells us the lunch will be Wednesday, Jan. 8, which isn't a First Thursday but will have to do. In the January issue, we'll report on Henry Cassidy's First Thursday appearance Dec. 5.

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Magazines—

From Page 1

While for Stolley and Picture Week, it was the unused stacks of pictures, for Harris and American Health, it was the mushrooming growth in new developments in health care and a wide range of related fields. On the demand side, he said, was the growth in interest in these subjects among an aging population.

"Ms. started out as a total and complete alternative," essentially to the women's magazine approach, said Pat Carbine. She said the demand was a desire among women for a forum that treated their role in business and careers and other fields rather than concentrating on the home and in parenting.

The resource, she said, was the women themselves which is why many stories in Ms. are by women who are not professional reporters or writers.

Ms. became "a place where real life experiences are exchanged and this made possible a quality of writing among women that hadn't been dreamed of," she said.

Jane Amsterdam's extraordinary success with Manhattan Inc. has related to its in-depth coverage and investigative reporting that enabled it compete with the newspaper business sections. One gauge of that success was the sudden expansion of those business sections, it was noted.

People wanted to know the story behind the big deals and big businessmen. Harris said Ms. Amsterdam was able to tap this information pile as "The Wyatt Earp of investigative reporting with a fierce tendency to go after the SOBs."

She succeeded, he said, "because she has a gift for working with investigative reporters, a strange breed—they all hate their fathers and don't get up before noon."

It got a good laugh, especially from those who've also worked with investigative reporters.

Everyone wanted to know about Picture Week, the much-talked-about, new Time-Life entry in the magazine field.

Stolley gave a play-by-play of the magazine's two years in development, describing a growth in enthusiasm from what he called an "underwhelmed" reaction to his initial proposal.

When a third dummy edition was put together a year ago, he said, all those negative attitudes in the Time-Life house "changed 180 degrees."

But the next effort last April "was pretty awful. We became known as 'The Yellow Peril' because of the color of the cover.

"A lot has been done since then. We believe we're on the right track," he said. An announcement of Picture Week's future will come after current test marketing.

OPC Seeks Release Of Jailed Publisher

Dialogue With Taiwan Regime Continues

The OPC, in its dialogue with Taiwan seeking the release from jail of the general manager of Formosa magazine, has rejected statements by the Republic of China.

Norman A. Schorr, chairman of the OPC Freedom of Press Committee, responded Nov. 6 to a letter from the Taiwan government information office which acknowledged the OPC's earlier plea that Shih Ming-teh receive urgently needed medical attention.

Sheldon S.Y. Peng, counsellor of the information office, said Shih had been transferred to a hospital "and is now receiving medical attention."

However, Peng denied Shih is a prisoner of conscience who did no more than express his political views. He sent some pamphlets in which Shih is accused of causing a violent demonstration.

With such human rights organizations as Amnesty International and The Committee to Protect Journalists, the OPC has charged Shih was convicted in a rigged trial and is being persecuted for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Shih was one of 19 cases of jailed journalists in Taiwan, and 90 worldwide, whose plight was publicized at the OPC Annual Awards Banquet in April. The OPC made formal appeals for their freedom in cables to heads of state of the 18 countries in which they were held.

Discussions pressing for journalists' release have resulted in some of these cases. Several of the jailed journalists have been released.

Answering the Taiwan response, Schorr said a review of Shih's trial clearly indicated the Taiwan government failed to show in court that Shih did anything but plan a peaceful human rights rally.

In his letter to Peng, Schorr protested what appear to be further human rights violations in the Shih case. These include:

- **The belief of witnesses that meetings between legal counsel and defendants were taped by the government.**
- **Allegations confessions were obtained by coercion including beatings.**
- **Refusal of the trial judge to call witnesses named by defense counsel.**

Schorr wrote, "We respectfully submit that Shih Ming-teh is being persecuted solely for peaceful expression of his opinions and we urge the Republic of China to release him unconditionally."

Peoplers

Cheryl McAll, responsible for our most successful programs—Blue Chip Magazine Editors Panel, Shana Alexander, Pete Axthelm—just back from testifying before Senate Sub-Committee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism. She told of terrible things that happen to runaway children based on documentary film she produced-directed, "Streetwise." It opened for third run in Big Apple, brought back by popular demand.

Amelia Lobsenz, Chairman-CEO, Lobsenz-Stevens PR firm, takes over as new president International Public Relations Association. First woman nominated to the post, she has announced IPRA program a key part of which is designed for "improvement of the relationship between press and public relations professionals."

Max Gendel reports from Tel Aviv that OPCer **Ray Shaw** spent a month there trying unique photo shoot idea for her 15th book. "Her perseverance is as remarkable as her pictures." Also, Gendel says, Chicago Tribune's **Jonathan Broder** is back after two-year stint in China and **Andrew Meisels** is covering for the New York Daily News and Washington Times.

OPCer **Walter H. Diamond**, who edits International Newsletter and is principal in Murphy, Hauser, O'Connor & Quinn accounting firm, just back from Kenya and Seychelles with tax specialist **Matthew Bender** and his editor wife, **Dorothy**, where they produced copy on tourism and investments.

Wilbur G. Landrey, foreign editor, St. Petersburg Times, awarded Inter American Press Association Award for Interpretive Commentary at IAPA assembly in Cartagena, Columbia. Landrey, ex-UPI foreign editor, is new chairman of IAPA Freedom of Press Committee.

Margaret Dysart hoping she can break away from busy schedule covering U.N. to attend an OPC session or two. She was named "Woman of Achievement" this year for the third consecutive year by the National Federation of Press Women.

Correspondents' Poll

Most outrageous price:

John Rigos, Athens: \$8,000 for cheapest Japanese car.

Karl Koch, Munich: Lufthansa domestic air tickets.

Michael Johnson, London: Petrol at \$2.60 per gallon.

Joe Grigg, London: \$210 per night for a hotel room.

Bernard Lovell, Geneva: They only seem outrageous because you can't afford them.

OPC Jan. 17 Jazz Hails Benny Waters

Just say Benny Waters on sax to make a jazz buff sit up and take notice.

The OPC Twilight Jazz session Jan. 17 will, therefore, be a very special occasion because it will honor THE Benny Waters, just back from France, just stomped away his 82nd birthday full of beans and bounce, as Jazz Chairman Wilma Dobie puts it.

Playing in honor of Benny—hailed in Paris as “world’s most modern saxophonist more than 80 years old”—will be Adolphus “Doc” Cheatham, leader of the Big Apple’s Sweet Basil group with Chuck Folds on piano, Al Hall, bass, Jackie Williams drums.

“They are the trimmest in the trade,” says Ms. Dobie. You won’t want to miss this one.

Honoring Benny Waters, OPC Twilight Jazz, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17, Rumford Hall, \$5 Admission, Cash Bar, First Come Seating.

Items

Member on Member

OPCer Allan Dodds Frank in the September issue of *Forbes* co-authors a major Q&A interview with OPC Member, “Founder of PR,” Edward Bernays, who terms all the new high-tech, high-rolling PR jargon “just old wine in new bottles.” Bernays, 93, does have a way of putting things. One quote, on ownership of PR outfits by ad agencies: “Horrible... like a drug company owning a medical school.”

Book Sales Mystery

It’s a mystery to Millicent Brower just how her recent book, “Young Performers” is selling. Published by Julian Messner, a division of Simon & Schuster, the book isn’t stocked in bookstores, can’t be purchased over the counter, must be ordered from the publisher or through a bookstore, isn’t even listed in Books in Print. But it has sold several thousand copies, she writes, adding, “This is a strange business.”

Galli Cops Big Job

OPCer Anthony P. Galli moves over to new job as senior VP-public affairs director at Bozell & Jacobs PR from Albert Frank-Guenther Law where he was director of corporate public relations.

First Thursdays—



Irene Corbally Kuhn



Herbert Kupferberg

From Page 1

Pardon the digression. Now to Kupferberg. Some highlights:

Big beat: First interview with Rudolf Bing, new general manager of the Metropolitan Opera. He got it by asking for it. He stopped by the Met press office to overhear Howard Taubman protesting. Said the press agent, “But Howard, I couldn’t help it—he called up and asked.”

Today’s Times monopoly: In music and most other kinds of criticism, “It really is unfortunate that today the Times has a monopoly... The News and the Post have excellent theater critics, for example, but only the Times seems to have any real impact.”

Of cries Times makes or breaks shows: “I’m not too sympathetic... I still remember how the theater, music and movie advertisers just left us (the Herald Tribune).” This was understandable because they got a much better return from Times ads but: “it never occurred to them that by helping maintain the Herald Tribune, they were also maintaining an alternative critical voice.”

Hard to be a critic? Yes, “But it can be done. Dr. Samuel Johnson said that nothing concentrated a person’s mind like the knowledge he was going to be hanged in the next couple of days.” Same with critics who know they have to do a review within next couple of hours.

Should critics have to write a same night review? He believes so. “When you see a show, you know whether you’ve liked it or not when you walk out of the theater. What’s hard to do, sometimes, is to explain why.”

State of criticism: He wishes it was more stimulating and dependable than it is in New York today. Music critics tire of same music. Theater critics lose touch with audience.

Only dance critics are unafraid to be enthusiastic because they want the public to appreciate what they feel is newest performing arts form. “I wish some of that feeling could rub off... It’s not a question of praising everything, but of not losing your capacity to enjoy anything.”

Help!

Desperately need a copy editor.

Kupferberg never was on the New York Times and he never was literary editor of *Parade* because it never had one, and we think he is senior editor but our notes are smudged, and 3 a.m. is no time to call him, and John Hutchens spells it with an “e,” not an “i,” and we’re sorry.

Obits

Richard Oulahan, veteran Time-Life correspondent, died in his sleep Nov. 4. He was 67.

Oulahan, who spent 36 years with Time-Life before his retirement in 1983, had been called back to work on special projects and was scheduled to begin work on the *People* Magazine yearend issue.

In 15 years with Time, he served as a writer and correspondent in New York and Washington and as Bureau Chief in Mexico City. He was a staff writer for Time-Life books before joining *People* in 1976.

Survivors include his wife, Jane, and seven children. A memorial service was held at the OPC Nov. 6.

Sydney W. Morrell, public relations consultant and long time OPCer, died Oct. 23 at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He was 73.

Morrell, head of Sydney Morrell & Company in New York, was born in Lancashire, England. He began his career on the Manchester Daily Herald; later was a foreign correspondent for the London Daily Express in Vienna, Prague, Budapest and the Middle East.

He is survived by his wife, Domini, three daughters and five grandchildren.

Keep in Touch!

Your fellow members want to know where you are, how you are and what you are doing. We want to tell them in the OPC Bulletin. Our thanks to the many members who've dropped us a note or card to this end. Please also feel free to let us know how we might improve The Bulletin. And pass along a storytip or two.

More Peoplers

George T. McGann from frying pan into the fire, so to speak. "Having survived the hurricane on Eastern Long Island, writes the ex-Australian Consolidated Press New York bureau chief, "Louise and I are headed for the part of Mexico that is alleged to have escaped the earthquake—San Miguel, 120 miles northwest of Mexico City. "Lots of sun, burros and tequila," McGann writes. His address: Quebrada 54, San Miguel de Allende, Gto, Mexico 317700.

Sam Witchel, president of Scharff Witchell financial PR firm, reports Harvard University has reprinted a New York Times Op-Ed piece on the Darwin Theory of Evolution which he wrote a while back.

Enough Peoplers

OPC'er **Stanley A. Frankel** has been re-elected president of Phi Beta Kappa Associates. The Peabody Award winner and former aide and speech writer for Adlai Stevenson, Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern, is now Adjunct Professor at Baruch College and Pace University and an officer of Ogden Corp.

Herb Silverman, free lance writer and long-time OPC'er, has been named national correspondent for World Food & Drink Report published by King Communications Group, Washington, D.C.

Kim Young Sick writes from Seoul about deluge of news people there during the International Monetary Fund sessions. Press corps of 500 came from 116 news organizations, 32 countries. West Germany had most staff, 48; U.S., second with 40, Japan third with 14.

Reminder

Material for the bulletin must be received in the OPC Office by the 14th of the preceding month for publication the following month.

OPC Awards Applications

Applications will be mailed shortly for the Annual OPC Awards Competition. Deadline for entries: Monday, Jan. 27. Members interested in receiving an application for the competition should write or phone the OPC office, 679-9650, to request application be mailed to you.

Up in Central Park Shown Down at OPC

The OPC Gallery exhibit for December stars Central Park in all her moods.

Entitled "Circle of Seasons," the park at the heart of Manhattan is revealed in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter through the fascinating medium of dye transfer prints and posters.

The photography is by the celebrated, internationally known husband and wife team of Sonja Bullaty and Angelo Lomeo.

The photos on display at the OPC form the basis for the couple's new book, *Circle of Seasons* (Amaryllis Press). Their work also is featured in *Landscape Photography* (Pub.: Watson-Guptill/Amphoto).

Note

Our letter to past and present correspondents in foreign capitals asking for reports on the state of the correspondents' community in these capitals and other items of OPC interest has brought a good response. We would like to send it along to others who might contribute. If you know someone who should be included in this list, please let us know.

NEW APPLICATIONS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Linda G. Gomez—Reporter, Life Magazine

Sponsors: *Cheryl McAll—David M. Friend*

NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Carol Lof

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

Edward Griffith

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

Patricia Waters

RE-INSTATEMENTS

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

Paul M. Sanker

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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